Colombo. April 14th 1840.

Miss Sophia & Miss Malicent Warren,

No apology I am afraid, my dear Friends, will be necessary for addressing you at this time, when I acquaint you with my situation; I mean as nurse & companion to your dear Bro. Edward, whom I delight to call my own dear brother. You have probably heard before this time of his bleeding at the lungs in August last. And before this reaches you, you will doubtless hear of many things concerning him which have transpired since that period; but being convinced that you would wish to have a more particular account of him than any which has been sent home, and agreeable to his own wish, I sit down to give you a brief history of him since the attack above mentioned. The bleeding at that time was not severe, indeed he raised very little blood; his system was however considerably affected - for a few weeks he could not speak with a voice. It was necessary to reduce him rather low by blood-letting and low diet to prevent a return of the bleeding. By the forepart of Oct. he had gained so much strength as to leave the N. for the S. part of the Island. This measure was considered necessary on account of the approaching rains, which are severe at the former place. He was carried in a palankeen (the only method of traveling by land from one part of the Island to the another) and attended by a trusty servant who had lived in our family at Bratticotta more than a year. The journey was beneficial to him; and he was cordially received into the family of our Baptist friends, Mr & Mrs Chater, where he has enjoyed every convenience and attention which the circumstances of their family would admit. The physicians here strongly advised him to travel & also to take a voyage. In Dec. he went in a palankeen to Point de Galle, where he stayed nearly a month in the family of our much esteemed friend, Rev. Mr Glenie, colonial Chaplain, (lately from Jaffna). The forepart of Jan. he returned to Colombo to join my sick husband, who had come thither by water, on account of a serious affection of the lungs; with a view of taking a short voyage in company with your brother. When the latter arrived here, his cough, in consequence of a late cold that he had taken, was considerable - he was a little feverish & his pulse very hard. These symptoms were considered rather threatening in his particular case, and blood-letting was resorted to with some appearance of success. They engaged a passage to Bombay & back again in a Brig that was to have sailed about the 15th of that month; but, how mysterious to us are the ways of Providence! For eight days after your brother arrived here, he was attacked with a violent bleeding at the lungs - he threw up for five successive days, on an average about a pint each day. At this time it was thought by himself and all around him that there was but a step between him and death. Those of us who were at Jaffna were daily expecting to hear that he had taken his departure hence. He viewed himself as on the verge of Eternity, and was enabled to look forward with unshaken faith & confidence in his crucified but ascended Redeemer. From the first of his illness he has enjoyed great peace and quietness of mind; but since the last attack, his feelings have been more lively, and he tells me that he cannot doubt but he is made partaker of that, which the

world could neither give nor take away. His uniform quietness and resignation to the will of God are viewed with astonishment, I had almost said by christian friends. He feels much for the poor heathen and ardently desires to labour for their good, but he also feels that the cause of missions is the cause of God, and that he will carry it on by means of his own appointment. But to return to the state of his bodily health. From the commencement of the last bleeding he lay ten days upon his back with his head much raised — with nothing over his chest but linen wet in cold water — was allowed no food excepting toast-water, rice-water &c. and had no natural action of the bowels. After this time it was thought that the large blood vessels which had been ruptured, were healed, & he was allowed a little chicken-tea, and was removed to a sofa & gently carried into another room, that this might be cleared — in a few days he began to sit in an easy chair, once owned by the late Doct. Coke (which, through the kindness of our Wesleyan friends here, he still has the use of). He now began to amend but his strength was litterally wearing away. His physicians (for he had two good physicians besides Mr Richards who was able to do very little for him) began to indulge hopes of his recovery, but feared he would fall into a rapid decline; but, in case he did well, they expected he would be in a critical situation for months, & would need very careful nursing. It was desirable also that he should have a constant companion who would read to & converse with him, besides many other little offices of kindness which we could not expect from a servant, especially a native servant. Mr R. could not do these. Br. Coates missionary & other avocations would not permit him to attend much to Br. Warren & Mrs. Coates health was not equal to it. Under these circumstances they sent for me at Batticotta (viz Jaffna) and I lost no time in making preparation for the voyage — my passage in a country vessel was engaged, and every thing in readiness for my sailing, when it pleased the Lord to hedge up my way, so, that I could not proceed, and it was not until the 24th of Oct. that I embarked. I had a passage of 11 days. (a longer time than usual.) No white person on board excepting myself & infant son. When I arrived, I found that Mr Richards had been absent a week on a voyage round the Island. Dear Br. W. was indeed feeble, but able to walk a few steps, & to sit up as much as half the time. His appetite was very delicate. His food consists of sago, rice in various forms, flour gruel, different kinds of custards, a few sweet meats, bread, biscuit &c. &c. He sometimes takes a little weak tea, but after all, milk constitutes his principal food. I sometimes grieve that I cannot procure a greater variety of light food for him & also for my poor husband, who eats no hearty food; but I hope I am thankful that they suffer no greater privations. We can procure everything here which a person in good health ought to desire, and the only difficulty in providing for a sick person is, that we cannot get so great a variety of delicate food as is sometimes desirable in protracted illness.

From a few days previous to my arrival here, until about a week past your Br. was evidently rather on the decline — his cough became more & more severe — the matter which he expectorated grew more, and his little strength was gradually